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Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa**Eighth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/493) on the construction of conference facilities at Addis Ababa, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/236 of 18 December 1984.
2. The Advisory Committee recalled that in his report of 4 October 1999 (A/54/431), the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly about the final residual activities relating to installation of the telecommunication system at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). As part of the agreement reached with the contractor in 1998 on that remaining issue, the contractor was to ship some minor equipment related to the uninterrupted power supply system and the amount of US\$ 52,266.08 had been retained, to be released upon receipt of the equipment by ECA.
3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/493) that after delivery of the remaining equipment in 2000, the certificate of completion for the installation of the telecommunications system was issued to the contractor on 6 June 2000 and the amount retained from the final payment was released. The Committee also notes from the report that all other pending payments to the contractor relating to the telecommunications system were finalized and processed and that on 30 June 2000, the project was closed and capitalized in the books of the Organization.
4. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, the amount of \$115,228,494 had been authorized by the General Assembly for the construction of conference facilities. The Advisory Committee notes from the same paragraph that, as at 30 June 2000, when the project was closed and capitalized, total final disbursements amounted to \$114,937,567, leaving an uncommitted balance of \$290,927 in the construction-in-progress account.



5. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 and annex II to the report of the Secretary-General that the unaudited financial statement of the construction-in-progress account reflects a balance of \$7,702,600, following the completion of the construction projects at Nairobi, Bangkok and Addis Ababa (\$2,880,000) and accumulated bank interest (\$4,822,600).

6. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General that possible alternatives for the utilization of the balance of \$7,702,600 are under review, including the compelling need for further upgrading of the facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and of ECA. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General intends to submit proposals to the General Assembly in respect of United Nations facilities at Nairobi and Addis Ababa in April/May 2001, in accordance with the procedure established by the Assembly in its resolution 37/237 of 21 December 1982.

7. In paragraph 13 of his report, the Secretary-General requests the General Assembly to take note of the balance of \$7,702,600 in the construction-in-progress account and to decide to retain those funds in that account until it considers all related matters. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's requests.